

Message Text

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11

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CCO-00 H-03 /017 W

----- 071515

R 260746Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 2664

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, ACOM, TW

SUBJECT: USE OF POUCH BY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

REF: A. STATE A-10315, OCT. 16, 1972 (SECTION VIII)

B. 5 FAM 333.3-2 (REVISED 12/4/72)

1. DURING RECENT CODEL VISIT WE WERE EMBARRASSED BY QUESTION OF POUCH USAGE. CODEL STAFF MEMBERS BELIEVED THEY WERE AUTHORIZED TO USE POUCH ON SAME BASIS AS CONGRESSMEN AND ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE PERMITTED TO DO SO AT OTHER POSTS. WE CITED DEPARTMENTS INSTRUCTIONS (REFS A AND B) AS PROHIBITING SUCH USE. WE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT ON OCCASION PERSONAL PARCELS WE HAD ADDRESSED TO OFFICIAL TRAVELERS (INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL ONES) HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THE POST CAUSING DELAYS AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES. WE INFORMED THEM THAT APO FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE AND OFFERED TO SEND THEIR PERSONAL PARCELS TO THEM THROUGH THE APO BILLING THEM FOR THE CHARGES.

2. WE ALSO HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE REGULATION STIPULATING THAT EACH POUCH SHIPMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATE OF THE NATURE OF ITS CONTENTS SIGNED BY A MEMBER OF CONGRESS. ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS OF THE CODEL HAD SIGNED SUCH A CERTIFICATE IN THE PAST, MOST STATED THAT OTHER POSTS HAD NOT REQUIRED CERTIFICATES. FORTUNATELY THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED BY TELEPHONIC AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT.

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3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANY POST SHOULD BE ASKED TO ENFORCE

REQUIREMENTS FOR CODELS THAT ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
OR UNIFORMLY APPLIED AT OTHER POSTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT
REVIEW BOTH THESE ISSUES AND ISSUE EXPLICIT UP TO DATE
INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ALL POSTS WILL BE EXPECTED, AND WILL BE
ABLE TO ENFORCE. WE ASSUME SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE
COORDINATED AT SOME POINT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICES OF THE
CONGRESS.
GLEYSTEN

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